

Preface

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With its commitment being “rooted in Macao and backed up by the motherland while facing the world and striving for excellence”, Macao Polytechnic Institute strives to provide quality education and research, and nurtures the best talent for the community as a multidisciplinary, application-oriented tertiary institution with unique characteristics.

This academic year we have made a breakthrough in obtaining professional accreditations: the BSc Programme in Computing at MPI was granted the highest level of certification by the UK’s Institution of Engineering and Technology, a significant achievement for Macao’s higher education, as being full recognised by the international academic community. In addition, MPI has signed many co-operation agreements with prestigious universities in the US, the UK, Portugal, Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, including those on mutual recognition of credits, in its endeavours to cultivate application-oriented, innovative talent with global vision.

As indicated in its Graduate Destination Survey, over 90% of MPI’s graduates have been successful in finding employment and/or pursuing further education, with their performance receiving positive feedback from many employers and institutions. To cite a particular case, in one recent examination held by the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau for the recruitment of Chinese-Portuguese translators, 30 out of the total 31 candidates who passed the exam were graduates of MPI’s Chinese-Portuguese Translation Programmes.

In 2011/2012 applications for admission to MPI reached a record high of over 8,000, among which approximately 4,800 were from local high schools, making MPI once again the most popular local higher education institution. There were about 300 applications from local high school graduates recommended by their principals for outstanding performance in academic and other fields, with around 100 being admitted after the interview and selection process. MPI’s admission quota for Mainland students was approximately 100 people in 2011/2012, but over 3,200 applications were received. The student admitted with the highest score had achieved 109 marks above the admission line for Mainland’s key universities. This is telling evidence of MPI and Macao’s higher education being recognised by excellent Mainland students.

This academic year MPI has continued to play a role as a bridge for Sino-Portuguese academic and cultural cooperation and exchange, taking advantage

of its strength in Portuguese teaching and research. We have actively promoted academic cooperation among Mainland China, Macao, Portugal and other Portuguese-speaking countries, and the European Union; in particular, collaboration with higher education institutions in Portugal has always been a top priority in MPI's external relations. Based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit, complementarity and sincerity, we have conducted multifaceted academic cooperation and exchange with Portuguese tertiary institutions with gratifying results, such as personnel exchange; jointly offering degree programmes – including 2 PhD programmes in Portuguese Language and Culture and Public Administration respectively; jointly organising academic conferences; establishing Chinese Culture Centres in Porto Polytechnic Institute in 1999 and Leiria Polytechnic Institute in 2008; conferring honorary professorships upon distinguished scholars; co-founding the Language Testing Centre; accession to international Portuguese-speaking organisations; and signing cooperation agreements.

Over the years MPI has established partnerships with numerous Portuguese institutions, including the University of Lisbon, University of Coimbra, University of Aveiro, University of Minho, University of Beira Interior, Leiria Polytechnic Institute, Porto Polytechnic Institute, Bragança Polytechnic Institute, the Camões Institute, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and the Macau Science and Culture Centre. As a public institution, MPI has assumed the responsibility to play the role of a bridge for academic exchange, with the aim being to broaden our students' vision, cultivate bilingual talent, and make our own contribution in promoting exchange and cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Another language teaching arm of MPI, the MPI-Bell Centre of English, continues to train English talent for Macao. This academic year the Centre has continued to provide Cambridge TKT exams and preparatory courses to help English language teachers at local primary and secondary schools to obtain international certification. The Centre also contributes to the cultural development of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region by providing training services for teachers of English at schools in Xinjiang.

Moreover, MPI has actively promoted gaming-related teaching and research, in support of Macao SAR's policy to build Macao into a world centre of tourism and leisure. The Gaming Teaching and Research Centre has invited world-renowned scholars and experts to host a gaming management lecture series, including Prof William Thompson of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Prof Johnny Johnson of the University of Southampton, UK, and Prof Robert Ladouceur of Université Laval, Canada. Through drawing on international experience and expertise, MPI has enhanced its strengths in gaming-related teaching and research.

Being rooted in Macao, MPI is committed to serving the educational needs of Macao. We will remain unswerving in our pursuit of the goal of cultivating talent endowed with practical skills and an innovative spirit. In the coming year we will focus on all-round collaboration with basic education institutions in Macao and provide academic support to local primary and secondary schools to the best of our ability. We will dedicate ourselves to nurturing the younger generation for Macao's further social, economic and cultural development.